

# Project Proposal

**Proposal Title:** Parowan Front WMA sagebrush treatment

**Proposal Number:** 1468

**DWR Region:** Southern Region

**Lead Agency:** DWR

**County:** Iron

**Project Manager:** Rhett Boswell

**PM Phone:** 4358656128

**Regional Priority:** Within Focus Area

**Project Type:** Terrestrial Habitat

**Proposed Start Date:** 8/1/2009

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**Project Location:** Parowan Front WMA ( Summit and Elliker Basin Units)

**Project Description:** 275 acres of brush mowing and interseeding in mature sagebrush.

**Description of Problem/Need:** Many range improvements have been completed on this area which is critical mule deer winter range, mostly to remove encroaching PJ. The understory and shrub component is in sub-optimal condition. Grazing has been done for many years and there is an overabundance of Purple Three-Awn (*Aristida purpurea*) which is of little or no value to both livestock and wildlife. The Three-awn grows late in the season and is not used by livestock that are in the area in spring. An overabundance of Three-awn is considered by many a sign of poor range conditions from over use and disturbance. The three-awn is a strong competitor and is the most prevalent grass in the unit. The other seeded and indigenous grasses in the WMA (crested and intermediate wheatgrass, Sandberg Bluegrass, Canby Bluegrass, Western Wheatgrass, bluebunch, needle-and-thread, and Indian ricegrass) are targeted by livestock heavily. Also, the browse component is mostly large stands of similar age-class Wyoming sagebrush. There is a lack of other important browse species such as bitterbrush and cliffrose.

**Objectives:** This project will provide diversity in the shrubsteppe ecosystem by opening up patches in the sagebrush and promoting a healthy, more diverse vegetative state. Manipulations of the shrub dominated landscape are consistent with sound range management practices and will benefit mule deer and other native wildlife.

**Relevance to Strategic Plans:** This project will directly benefit mule deer (tier III), a species of high priority for the Utah Division of Wildlife for economic and ecological reasons.

**Potential Risks:** Failure to establish seeded species may result in dominance by undesirable annual grass or weeds

**Proposed Methods:** A tractor drawn mower, Bobcat with a mower attachment, or Dixie harrow would be used to create mosaic patterns in dense stands of sagebrush to reduce average sagebrush canopy cover by creating openings and stimulate new sagebrush growth and the growth of existing grasses and forbs. Prior to mowing, ATV's mounted with seeder attachments will be used to supplement treated areas with browse, forbs, and grasses.

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**Shapefile Name:** S:\DWR\HPD-2010\GIS Shape Files\1468.shp

**Seed Source:** GBRC

**UPCD Reg Team Coord Date:**

**Proposed NEPA Action:**

**Proposed Arch Action:**

☒ **Vegetation Monitoring**      ☒ **Wildlife Monitoring**

**Monitoring Information:** The area will have two range trend sites within the treatment areas. Area biologists will monitor mule deer herd as part of annual monitoring of the Panguitch Lake management Unit #28

**Grazing Management:** Summit Units are part of a UDWR grazing Allotment , grazing will be rested for 2-3 years post treatment.

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## SPECIES BENEFITING

|                  |               |               |                      |
|------------------|---------------|---------------|----------------------|
| Mule Deer        | Mourning Dove | Sage Sparrow  | Sage Thrasher        |
| Brewer's Sparrow | Small Mammals | Burrowing Owl | Rio Grande Wild Turk |

# Project Proposal

## LAND OWNERSHIP

| Owner        | Acres      |
|--------------|------------|
| DWR          | 275        |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>275</b> |

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## PROPOSED FUNDING

| Source           | Amount Requested   | Date Approved | Amount Approved |
|------------------|--------------------|---------------|-----------------|
| Unfunded Balance | \$19,450.00        |               | \$0.00          |
| <b>Totals</b>    | <b>\$19,450.00</b> |               | <b>\$0.00</b>   |

## PROPOSED BUDGET

| Item                   | Description                              | DWR Account        | Partner Contrib. |
|------------------------|--|--------------------|------------------|
| Seed (GBRC)            | seed for 275 acres @ \$30/acre           | \$8,250.00         | \$0.00           |
| Personal Services      | UDWR employee and seasonal time          | \$3,000.00         | \$0.00           |
| Archaeological Survey  | 275 acres @ \$28/acre                    | \$7,700.00         | \$0.00           |
| Materials and Supplies | flagging and misc equip charges, ATV etc | \$500.00           | \$0.00           |
|                        | <b>Totals</b>                            | <b>\$19,450.00</b> | <b>\$0.00</b>    |

## Project Map:

